

Amendments to the Claims:

11. (original): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier, the steps comprising:

- a) encrypting a message with the use of a scrambling function;
- b) choosing an information carrier comprising a set of pixels;
- c) coding the shade or color level of said encrypted message using a set of pixels in said information carrier;
- d) modifying said shade or color level of each of said pixels of said coded message by one of a plurality of values; and
- e) transmitting said modified message.

12. (currently amended): A method of steganographically hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

- encrypting a message;
- modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;
- scaling said modulated encrypted message; and
- adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier.

13. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

- encrypting a message;
- modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;
- scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The method of claim 12, wherein the information carrier comprises a video frame.

14. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

encrypting a message;

modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;

scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The method of claim 12, wherein said scaling scales the brightness level of the modulated encrypted message.

15. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

encrypting a message;

modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;

scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The method of claim 12, wherein said encrypting provides an encrypted message comprising a spatially uniform noisy message.

16. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

encrypting a message;

modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;

scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The method of claim 12, wherein the predetermined data comprises an N-bit identification word.